7th February 1924]

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" With regard to (*b*) and (*c*) of the answer, I am sure the hon. the Leader of the House will agree with me when I say that more than once His Excellency as well as Members of his Government have officially referred to the fact that joint consultation was a feature of the Madras Government and even prided themselves that, so far as that feature went, Madras was an improvement over the other presidencies. Such declarations having been publicly made, what is the good of my hon. Friend, the Leader of the House, now trying to take refuge under this plea of confidential matter? So I would request him to give us a candid answer as to firstly whether at the beginning joint consultations had been the rule or not, secondly whether such consultations have not been held in the same manner and to the same extent and thirdly whether, if any change had been brought about, it has been brought about by the initiation of the Local Government or under stress from the Government of India or the Right hon. the Secretary of State."

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" I have nothing to add, Sir, to the answer on the paper."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" Does the hon. the Leader of the House deny my statement that more than once in public the Head of the Administration as well as responsible Members of the Government had said that joint consultations were a special feature of the Government here and in so far as that feature went we were a great improvement over the other provinces? "

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" The answer, Sir, is in the negative."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" Then, are we not entitled, since the veil had been lifted so far, for complete publicity of the whole matter? If the thing had not at all been referred to, it would have been a different thing. But the thing having been to some extent revealed, are we not entitled to a complete revelation? "

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER :—" The answer, Sir, is in the negative."

The issue of a Whip in connexion with the " No-confidence " motion.

180 Q.—Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether his attention has been drawn to the terms of the Whip issued by the hon. the Chief Minister and dated 21st November 1923 in connexion with the 'No-confidence' Address debated last November;

(*b*) whether he was aware of the existence of the Whip at the time he answered, on the 27th November, Mr. Satyamurti's question as to whether Government had issued any whip in the negative; and

(*c*) if he was not, whether he will be so good as to inform the House as to when the Chief Minister informed him of its existence?

A.—(*a*) My attention has been drawn to a letter published in the *Swarajya* by Mr. Muttayya Mudaliyar on the 22nd December 1923.

(*b*) I was unaware of the existence of the letter in question on the 27th November.

(*c*) The Government do not propose to make public private discussions between Members and Ministers.